rather light at present. There would then remain only the other *pa uthis* of the Kunnathunad taluk and the whole of the Alengad taluk. The central place for all those *pakuthis* would be Alwaye. The town of Alwaye was also growing fast in importance. The Member, therefore, prayed that the Munsiff's Court at Perumbavur might be shifted to Alwaye, or, if that was not possible, that a separate Munsiff's Court be established at Alwaye.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(4) Registration.

46. Need for requiring the parties presenting documents for registration to present also copies thereof as formerly and for modifying the rates of fees now levied.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) said that, according to section 25 of the old Registration Regulation, I of 1070, now repealed by Regulation II of 1087, the parties presenting every non-testamentary document for registration were required to present true copies thereof along with the originals. The Sub-Registrars used to compare the original with the copy and, on accepting the document and going through the necessary formalities registered the document. The endorsements made in the original were entered in the copy also which was signed, attested and forwarded immediately to the Central Office for safe custody. The above formalities were made purely in the interests of the parties. If any doubt occurred in respect of the entries in the document or Register-book, it was possible to clear it by a reference to the copy aforesaid. According to section 25 of the new Regulation, every non-testamentary document to be registered should be presented at the proper Registration office by certain classes of persons. The production of copies of the document was not insisted on by the above section and the parties accordingly presented documents for registration invariably without copies thereof as formerly. The Member dwelt at length on the advantages of making the production of copies compulsory and the evils arising from the non-production of such copies. The document-writers of the State were, as a class, uneducated and they depended upon the small fees they got by writing such documents. They were prepared to do any mischief in the preparation of the documents for small gains. The provision dispensing with the production of copies of documents had given them wider scope for doing mischief. For, any fraud that might be committed by them in wording the document or in correcting it, might go undetected and the parties, especially those who were illiterate, suffered much. Very often the matter had to be taken before Civil Courts. Some persons appointed as Sub-Registrars did not possess even a working knowledge of the Registration Regulation. Formerly, there was a rule to the effect that only those who had passed the Registration examination should be appointed Sub-Registrars and clerks in the Sub-Registry Offices, but that rule was not being adhered to now. The clerks appointed in Sub-Registry offices did not generally possess any qualification, either general or technical. Excepting the original document, the next record that helped the parties was the Register-book. That book often contained many corrections and erasures which rendered it unreliable. The existence of one or two corrupt and unreliable clerks in a Sub-Registry office would lead to endless trouble to innocent parties. The provision requiring the production of copies was a great check on the evils mentioned above. However, the provision was not inserted in the new Regulation. In the Member's opinion, the revival of the old practice would prove highly beneficial to the interests of the people and the Government. On the other hand, the rule dispensing with its production did not bring in any advantages to the Government. The Member, therefore, requested that the production of copies of documents for registration along with the originals might be insisted on, consistently with the provision contained in the repealed Registration Regulation, I of 1070.

The Member next submitted that the fees fixed for registration, searches and copies under the present Regulation were high, as compared with those fixed under Regulation I of 1070. The chief grievance of the people was that fees for documents for small amounts were abnormally raised.

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The table of fees under the old Regulation was as follows:—

	Rs.	Chs.
(*a*) When the value of the document did not exceed Rs 50	...	14
(*b*) When the value exceeded Rs. 50 but did not exceed Rs. 100	1	...
(*c*) When the value exceeded Rs. 100 but did not exceed Rs. 1,000	2	...
(*d*) When it exceeded Rs 1,000 but did not exceed Rs. 5,000	5	...
(*e*) For each additional Rs. 1,000 or part thereof above Rs. 5,000	1	...

The table of fees under section 72 of Regulation II of 1087 was as follows :—

(*a*)	When the value did not exceed Rs. 25				...	14
(*b*)	When the value exceeded Rs. 25, but did not exceed Rs. 50				...	21
(*c*)	Do	„ 50	Do	„ 100	1	...
(*d*)	Do	„ 100	Do	„ 300	2	...
(*e*)	Do	„ 300	Do	„ 600	3	...
(*f*)	Do	„ 600	Do	1,000	4	...
(*g*)	Do	1,000	Do	5,000	5	...
(*h*)	And for each additional Rs. 1,000 or part thereof above Rs. 5,000				1	...

The Member pointed out that the above enhanced rates of fees sat heavily on the poor people whose transactions were in respect of small amounts. The rich might not feel it, if the fees for big amounts were raised. He, therefore, prayed that the fees for documents whose value did not exceed Rs. 1,000 might be fixed at the same rates as those under the repealed Regulation I of 1070, that the fees for documents whose value exceeded Rs. 1,000 but did not exceed Rs. 5,000 might be fixed at Rs. 5 and that the fees for each additional Rs. 1,000 or part thereof above Rs. 5,000 might be still further increased. He also said that the fees for making searches for granting copies as per the rules under the present Regulation were excessive when compared with the rates as per the old Regulation. He prayed that the search fees and copying fees also might be fixed at the same rates as those under the old Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

47. Need for establishing a Sub-Registry Office at Pallikkal.

Mr. P. M. Narayana Kurup (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) said that the Navaikulam Sub-registry office was located in the north-easternmost part of that *pakuthi* and that parties from Edava, Varkalai, Vettur, Ayirur, Chemmaruthi and Cheruniyur *pakuthis* had to go more than 18 or 20 miles to reach that office. With a view to avoid the trouble, the people generally transacted their business by promissory notes and plain debt-bonds. The Government were, therefore, losers.

Then again, the *pakuthis* of Madavur, Kilimanur, Pazhayakunnummel, Vellallur, Pallikkal and Velinallur, which were only three miles from the Navaikulam Sub-registry office, were included in the Chadayamangalam Sub-district, which was 12 to 15 miles from the above *pakuthis*. The people of Varkalai had long been applying for the opening of a Sub-registry office there. The Member was of opinion that the Government would not be losers by opening additional Sub-registry offices. In view of the arguments set forth above, the Member prayed that the Navaikulam and Chadayamangalam Sub-registry offices might be shifted to Varkalai and Pallikkal respectively, or, if that was not possible, that two new Sub-registry offices might be opened at Varkalai and Pallikkal, the necessary re-adjustments being made in respect of the territorial jurisdiction of each office. He said that the transfer of the Navaikulam office to Varkalai would prove beneficial to the people of Vettur, Edava, Varkalai, Ayirur, Chemmaruthi, Cheruniyur, Manampur and Ottur, while the *pakuthis* of Pallikkal, Madavur, Vellallur, Navaikulam, Kilimanur, Pazhayakunnummel, Velinallur, Kummil and Chadayamangalam would have greater convenience, if the Chadayamangalam office be shifted to Pallikkal. The Member also added that, with the new transfers, the Idamulakkal *pakuthi*, now under the

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